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The Mexican Conference

The sensationally heralded "Latin-American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace" has come and gone in Mexico City without making a sensation. It can be considered a failure.

The advance notices threatened a meeting that would rally Latin-American opinion to *Fidellismo* and against the United States. As it turned out, there was more *comunismo* than *Fidellismo*. The final resolutions were mainly in the same old Communist line—against "American economic imperialism" and the Monroe Doctrine, for an independent Puerto Rico and a free Panama Canal Zone. There was a section and many speeches in favor of the Cuban revolution, but the emphasis was elsewhere.

The conference, in short, was another proof that *Fidellismo* is being weakened in the hemisphere by its alliance with communism. No important Latin-American liberals took part in the meeting with the exception of former President Lázaro Cárdenas, who again pointed and

disappointed his friends and admirers by lending his impressive name and prestige to a conference that did not represent things for which he has stood. His own address to the meeting was moderate and was not a setback.

Despite widespread beliefs in the United States, Lázaro Cárdenas is not anti-American and he certainly never was and is not a Communist. His position in history is that of the Mexican patriot and champion of the people, who completed the program of the Mexican Revolution in his Presidential term from 1934 to 1940. He has spent his life in behalf of the Mexican peasants, and he belongs in the line of the humanistic, liberal traditions of Latin America.

Lázaro Cárdenas was a great revolutionary, but like Fidel Castro he does not seem to have realized that communism is an alien and essentially counter-revolutionary force. Latin-American ideals and aspirations lose attraction when presented in Communist guise, and the "Peace" meeting that just ended in Mexico City is one more proof of that.